



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
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Conway Town Hall

FEMA photo

CONWAY IS MITIGATION COMMUNITY OF THE MONTH – FEMA Region I has selected Conway as its Mitigation Community of the Month for April, citing the Carroll County community's floodplain management and other flood control programs. Located on the Saco and Swift rivers, Conway is susceptible to flooding caused by heavy rain, snowmelt or ice jams. The town has been a member of the National Flood Insurance Program since 1979 and adopted a floodplain ordinance in 1986. That ordinance restricts development in the floodplain to open space, agricultural use, roads and utility infrastructure. No new buildings may be constructed in the area. Buildings that pre-date the ordinance may not be expanded.

According to FEMA there are 76 flood insurance policies in effect in Conway. NFIP has paid \$172,331 on flood claims for 45 properties.

HURRICANE FORECASTERS PREDICT ACTIVE SEASON – Hurricane forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting an Atlantic basin hurricane season that is well above average. They have also upgraded their forecasts for the season made late last year. The forecasting team predicts 15 named storms this season, compared with a half-century average of 9.6. They also predict eight hurricanes, compared with an average of 5.9, and four intense hurricanes, compared with an average of 2.3. The chance of a hurricane making landfall along the Atlantic coast is 69 percent, compared to an average of 52 percent. Dr. William Gray, who has been forecasting hurricane seasons for 25 years, says the predictions are based on a variety of climatic conditions, including surface water temperatures in the ocean and wind patterns.

The Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1st.

SEABROOK OFF-LINE FOR REFUELING – Seabrook Station was shut down for the month of April for the plant's 12th scheduled refueling outage in its operating history. Workers are replacing 84 of the plant's 193 fuel assemblies and carrying out more than two thousand maintenance procedures. Refueling at Seabrook is done every 18 months. At full power, Seabrook produces 1,244 megawatts for the New England power grid. The plant is expected to be back on line in May.

VY REDUCES POWER TO SEARCH FOR LEAK – The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant operated at about 45 percent power for several days earlier this month as technicians tried to find the source of a leak in the plant's cooling system. The leak was detected in some of the plant's 22,000 condenser tubes. The plant reduced power as technicians tried to isolate the leak, but they were unable to find it. After four days the plant slowly increased power and resumed normal operations.

CROSS-BORDER TABLETOP EXPLORES FLOOD RECOVERY – Emergency Management personnel from New Hampshire and Maine held a tabletop exercise in Berwick, Maine, on April 5th to examine issues related to recovery from flooding on both sides of the state line. Participants included state and local responders, health care and social services agencies and elected officials from Strafford County, N.H., and York County, Maine. Most exercises concentrate on the response phase of a disaster, so this focus on recovery was unusual. But both states are still working on recovery from the last round of flooding and many of the same issues came up during the exercise. Participants developed plans to provide long-term shelter and to return victims to their homes, as well as mold prevention and restoration of public services.

SAVE THE DATE – The fourth annual N.H. Emergency Preparedness Conference is scheduled for Monday, June 25th, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. The conference is aimed at emergency management and public health personnel, first responders and state and local officials. This year's theme is "Reinforcing the Foundation." It is sponsored by the state Departments of Health and Human Services and Safety, N.H. Health Officers Association, N.H. Public Health Network and the Community Health Institute. Registration information will be forthcoming. For more information call 573-3306.

TABLETOP EXERCISE HELD AT RACE TRACK – State and local first responders and officials of New Hampshire Motor Speedway held a tabletop exercise on April 17th to improve response plans and capabilities for responding to a life safety emergency at the track. The exercise focused on local emergency responder command and control, critical decisions, notifications and public information strategies that will be critical to the overall response effort. It was sponsored by the Town of Loudon with support from N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

N.H. RECEIVES REAL ID EXTENTION – New Hampshire residents will still be able to board commercial aircraft and enter federal facilities using their driver's licenses for identification after the May 11th deadline for implementation of the federal Real ID Act. The Department of Homeland Security issued the extension at the request of Governor Lynch because the state has made significant progress in improving security safeguards of its driver's licenses. The state had been making those improvements independently of the Real ID Act. New Hampshire has a law, passed last year, that defines Real ID as a national identification system and forbids the state from participating in it or cooperating with its implementation.

The extension lasts until December 31st, 2009. Without it, people carrying New Hampshire driver's licenses would need to provide additional identification, such as a passport, or be subjected to additional screening to board a commercial aircraft or to enter federal facilities.

REGION HAS POWER FOR THE SUMMER – New England will have sufficient electric power to meet summer demand, even if that demand reaches record levels, according to the regional power grid operator. ISO-New England says the region's power plants and demand-response plans will be able to meet its needs. It predicts demand will reach 28,000 megawatts under normal summer conditions of about 90 degrees. In the event of extreme heat, with temperatures at 95 degrees and high humidity levels, the organization forecasts record power demand of 29,900 megawatts. The all-time record electricity use of 28,130 megawatts was set on August 2nd, 2006.

ISO-New England estimates regional generating capacity at 31,300 megawatts. Regional reserves allow for the unplanned outage of a large generator or major transmission line.